



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/849,261	05/20/2004	Yin-Shang Zteng	CPE00085 (CPE-04)	7407
58552	7590	05/17/2007		
BANGER SHIA 204 CANYON CREEK VICTORIA, TX 77901			EXAMINER AU, SCOTT D	
			ART UNIT 2612	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/17/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/849,261		ZTENG, YIN-SHANG	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Scott Au		2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is in response to applicant's response to an Amendment, which is filed February 26, 2007.

An amendment to the claims 1-8 have been entered and made of record in the Application of Zteng for a "Household digital automation control system" filed June 20, 2004.

Claims 1-8 are pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's amendment to the rejected claims are insufficient to distinguish the claimed invention from the cited prior arts to overcome the rejection of said claims under 35 U.S.C 102(a) and 35 U.S.C 103(a) as discussed below. Applicant's amendment with respect to the pending claims 1-8, filed on February 26, 2007, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive in view of Sato (US# 6,636,157), Van der Meulen (US# 6,900,617), Moutaux et al. (US# 6,906,635), Watanabe et al. (US# 6,583,723) and Meyer (US# 6,882,334).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (US# 6,636,157).

Referring claims 1 and 3, Sato discloses a digital household automation control system, in whose covering area there are electric appliances (i.e. TV, VTR, CDR, and VDP) connecting with ground line and a live line of an external power source with their switches, comprising;

an input (RD) (i.e. remote commander) with a transmitting unit for emitting RF signals (i.e. Abstract);

a relay device (10) (i.e. central controller comprises receiving antenna 11, demodulator 13, controller 14, and infrared transmitter 12) for receiving the RF signals from an input and converts it into differently coded RF signals to said infrared relay unit, and

an infrared relay unit (12) (i.e. infrared transmitter) for converting said RF signals into infrared signals in order to control said appliances (i.e. TV, VTR, CDR, and VDP) (col. 6 lines 22-29; see Figures 3-4A);

a controller disposed on said switch having a receiver, a central processor and a controlling unit controlled by said central processor; wherein, said receiver receives infrared signals from the relay device and sends them to said central processor for comparing and analyzing, and thereby driving said controlling unit to control said controller (col. 6 lines 30-40).

Referring to claim 2, Sato discloses the system of claim 1, wherein said relay transmitter also includes an infrared signal receiving unit and a memory unit connecting to said infrared signal receiving unit; moreover, said infrared signal receiving unit receives infrared signals and then sends said infrared signals and then sends said infrared signals to said memory unit for memorizing (col. 2 lines 1-11).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US# 6,636,157) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Van der Meulen (US# 6,900,617).

Referring to claim 4, Sato discloses the system of claim 1. However, Sato did not explicitly disclose wherein said input a computer.

In the same field of endeavor of home appliance network system, Van der Meulen discloses the input is a computer (col. 1 lines 35-47).

One ordinary skill in the art understands that the input is a computer of Van der Meulen is desirable in the home electronic appliance system of Sato because Sato teaches the remote control (RD) controlling difference appliances through the central controller (10) (col. 6 lines 22-40) and Van der Meulen teaches the central control station can be a home computer in order for the user to preprogram light or appliances are on or off at different times (col. 1 lines 35-47).

Referring to claim 5, Sato in view of Van der Meulen disclose the system of claim 4, Sato teaches the remote control (RD) controlling difference appliances through the central controller (10) (col. 6 lines 22-40) and Van der Meulen teaches the central control station can be a home computer (col. 1 lines 35-47). Therefore, it is conventional in the art that Sato in view of Van der Meulen disclose wherein said computer is linked into a network adapter for controlling said relay unit via the network.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US# 6,636,157) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Moutaux et al. (US# 6,906,635).

Referring to claim 6, Sato in view of Hayes et al. disclose the system of claim 1. However, Sato did not explicitly disclose wherein said input is a mobile communication unit, for controlling the relay unit.

In the same field of endeavor of electronic appliance system, Moutaux et al. teach the input is a mobile communication unit (col. 1 line 60 to col. 2 line 3).

One ordinary skill in the art understands that the input is a mobile communication unit of Moutaux et al. is desirable in the home electronic appliance system of Sato because Sato teaches the remote control (RD) controlling different appliances through the central controller (10) (col. 6 lines 22-40) and Moutaux et al. teach the remote control unit (6) is a mobile telephone for controlling different home electronic appliances (col. 6 line 65 to col. 7 line 6).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US# 6,636,157) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Watanabe et al. (US# 6,583,723).

Referring to claim 7, Sato in view of Hayes et al. disclose the system of claim 1. However, Sato did not explicitly disclose wherein said input detecting actuator, comprising: a detecting unit initiated by a triggering signal resulting from environmental changes; a central processing unit for processing said triggering signal from detecting unit; and a transmitting unit for emitting the signals emitted from said central processing unit and thereby controlling said relay device.

In the same field of endeavor of home electronic appliance system, Watanabe et al. disclose wherein said input detecting actuator, comprising: a detecting unit initiated by a triggering signal resulting from environmental changes; a central processing unit

Art Unit: 2612

for processing said triggering signal from detecting unit; and a transmitting unit for emitting the signals emitted from said central processing unit and thereby controlling said relay device (col. 1 lines 6-25 and col. 13 lines 42-50).

One ordinary skill in the art understands that the environment changes sensor of Watanabe et al. is desirable in the home appliance system of Sato because both Sato and Watanabe et al. disclose for controlling home electronic appliances and Watanabe et al. teach the sensor 41 for sensing the environmental chance in order to carry out a desire command.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US# 6,636,157) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Meyer (US# 6,882,334).

Referring to claim 8, Sato discloses the system of claim 1. However, Sato did not explicitly disclose wherein said input is attached with an RF unit, and said controller is attached with an RF signal transmitting unit; moreover, after said controller is adjusted and switched by the controlling of said RF signals, said signal transmitting unit will send a feedback and said feedback will be received by said RF relay unit for a user to know the working status of said controller.

In the same field of endeavor of electronic system, Meyer teaches wherein said input (40) is attached with an RF unit, and said controller is attached with an RF signal transmitting unit; moreover, after said controller (16) (i.e. computer) is adjusted and switched by the controlling of said RF signals, said signal transmitting unit will send a

feedback and said feedback will be received by said RF relay unit for a user to know the working status of said controller (col. 3 lines 47-67 and col. 2 lines 57-67).

One ordinary skill in the art understands that the computer (16) transmits a response back to the wireless keyboard (40) confirming the reception and content of the information of Meyer is desirable in the electronic communication system of Sato because Sato and Meyer both teach the communication of two electronic devices and Meyer further teach the receiver device provides a feedback to the transmitter device once is received the signal.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2612

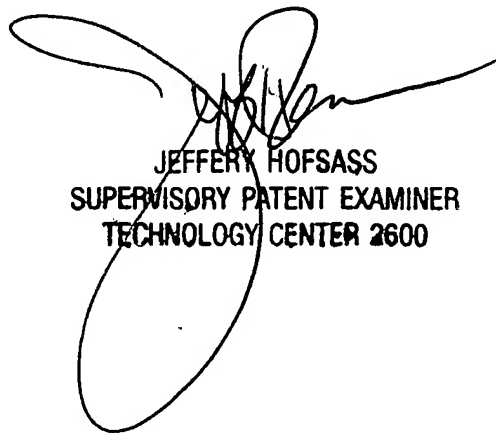
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Au whose telephone number is (571) 272-3063.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30AM – 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached at (571) 272-2981. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571)-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-305-3900.

Scott Au



JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600